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A

GENUINE ACCOUNT

OF THE

LIFE, ROBBERIES,

TRIAL and EXECUTION,

OF

William Hawke,

CALL'D THE

FLYING HIGHWAYMAN.

Who was executed at TYBURN,  
JULY the FIRST, 1774.

CONTAINING

His Birth and Education. His numerous Robberies; both as a Footpad, and on the Highway. His Generosity to Persons in Distress. His Flight to France, with his Character of that Country and People. His Transportation to America, and quick Return. His escape out of Tothill-fields Bridewell. His Battle with Captain Cunningham and Mr. Hart. The Manner of his Apprehension, with his desperate Resistance. His Behaviour to his Friends, and particular Regard to his Wife. His Behaviour under Sentence of Death in Newgate, &c.

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A N  
A C C O U N T  
O F THE  
LIFE, TRIAL and ROBBERIES  
O F  
WILLIAM HAWKE.



WILLIAM HAWKE, who has made so conspicuous a figure in the annals of villainy, was born at Uxbridge, in 1750. His parents were honest and industrious people, and in good repute among their neighbourhood. He was by trade a jeweller, though he did not serve a regular apprenticeship to that or any other business.

When he was about sixteen years of age he came to London, and for some time applied himself to his business as a jeweller, but growing weary of confinement took a lodging in Leather-lane, Holborn, and in that neighbourhood unluckily fell into company with James Field, Edward Milsom.



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and Daniel M'Donald,  
dated the commencement  
tures on the road; for the  
of a bold and enterprising  
qualified to share in the  
invited him to join them  
and he made no scruple  
and soon distinguished  
intrepid behaviour in the

These men committed  
vicious acts in the streets  
of London, and the con-  
dition of their spoils, with  
particular person had gained  
reputation.

About six years ago,  
with their associates, broke  
into the shop window of Mr. [?]  
corner of Leather-lane,  
six watches, for which  
Old Bailey and acquitted  
the watches, having the [?]  
them escaped that bout.

They committed a robbery  
at Holloway, for which  
they were apprehended and  
but no positive evidence  
he was discharged, but he  
received the sentence of death, and was

Hawke and Field, however,  
escaped the rod of justice;  
they had sentence of death  
passed on them, from which they



Donald, and from that time may be  
 commencement of his mischievous adven-  
 d; for these men perceiving he was  
 enterprising disposition, and perfectly  
 re in the desperate hazards they ran,  
 join them in their future exploits;  
 o scruple to embrace their proposal,  
 guished himself by his resolute and  
 our in the most dangerous attacks.  
 committed many robberies in the en-  
 n, and constantly made an equal par-  
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 ad gained the greatest share of plun-

ars ago, he, with M'Donald and o-  
 ciates, broke a pane of glass in the  
 of Mr. Ferris, silver-smith, at the  
 her-lane, Holborn, and took away  
 which M'Donald was tried at the  
 acquitted; but Hawke, who had  
 ving the lightest pair of heels among  
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tted a robbery near Mother Red  
 ay, for which Milsum and M'Don-  
 ended and tried at the Old Bailey;  
 evidence appearing against Milsum  
 ed, but his companion received sen-  
 and was soon after executed.

Field, however, did not always ef-  
 justice; for about five years ago  
 nce of transportation passed upon  
 ch they attempted an escape, in a  
 place

place in Newgate call'd the Lower Ward. A wo-  
 man brought them two large iron crows, with other  
 implements, by the help of which they had almost  
 compleated their design, but their behavior disco-  
 vering great reason for suspecting their intentions,  
 they were narrowly watch'd by the keeper's ser-  
 vants, who detected them in the moment they were  
 executing their project; so that instead of gaining  
 their freedom, they were loaded with the heaviest  
 irons that were in the prison, and closely confined  
 in the cells till the day they were put on board the  
 transport ship.

Having remained in America about a year, they  
 found means to get to Ireland, where they commit-  
 ted a great number of the most desperate highway  
 robberies that had ever been heard of in that king-  
 dom; but at length the hue and cry being raised  
 against them, they determined to return to Eng-  
 land, and accordingly conveyed the fruits of their  
 iniquitous toil on board a vessel which brought 'em  
 to Park-gate.

Immediately upon landing they purchased horses  
 and equipping themselves with pistols, hangers, &c.  
 set forward on their journey to London, but had  
 not proceeded more than six miles before they o-  
 vertook the carriage of Richard Prinnald esq; they  
 rode round the coach four times before they order-  
 ed the driver to stop. Mr. Prinnald let down the  
 glass, and observed a pistol at his breast on the right  
 side, and at the same instant another pistol was pre-  
 sented from the opposite side and pointed exactly  
 of his ear. The thieves continued silent near three  
 minutes



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Hawke overtakin  
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gave the man a sum  
to pay his debts.



When Mr. Prinnald having somewhat recovered from his fright delivered a purse containing thirteen guineas. Hawke received the money and having put it into his waistcoat pocket, apprehended you have a watch; the gentleman, finding he had not one about him, they

concerted a new plan of operation, they sold their horses, and bought others, and dressed themselves like farmers, directed their way to Northampton, where they staid a few days, then having got intelligence that a captain in that town was upon his return from where he had been selling a large quantity of horses, they mounted their horses with a resolution to rob him of the precious burden they imagined he was loaded with; and stopping him about three miles from Dunstable, robbed him of the money, having lodged the rest of his cash with a friend in the town.

Overtaking a gentleman on the road, and giving him the usual salute of, *Deliver!* the gentleman, finding he had not a fixpence for himself, and being a tradesman under unfortunate circumstances, was then flying from his creditors to London. Hawke asked him what sum would satisfy him? And being told, he bid the person to meet him at a certain place and time. He met him accordingly to the appointment, when Hawke delivered him a sum which was more than sufficient to pay his debts.

But

But tho' this may be deemed an act of generosity in the highwayman, yet a question has been started whether the man could honestly and lawfully receive his gift, since he could not be ignorant (from the man's first address) of the means by which it was gotten; and therefore, say they, the man was equally guilty with the robber; according to a long established rule that *The Receiver is as bad as the Thief*. On the other hand there is a very antient proverb which says *You should not look a gift horse in the mouth*. That is, if a friend makes you a present of a horse, you ought not to examine whether he has any teeth, but thankfully accept it for the good will of the donor. So, if I am in distress, and a person whom I have reason to believe is a bad man, commiserating my misfortune, offers me relief, shall I refuse his kindness because his character is not very reputable, or shall I ask him how he came by the money with which he is so kind as to assist me? I think not. However as this is a case of conscience rather than of law, I shall leave it to more able casuists to determine.

Soon after the return of Hawke and Field, they were joined by Edward Millsom; and these three were considered as the most bold and desperate gang of Highwaymen that had ever been in England. They seemed to have no fear of being apprehended, frequently robbing travellers in open day, and in the most populous roads about London.

On Sunday the 25th. of July, they robbed Mr. Stuart near Kensington, of about ten pounds and a watch



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atch. A few days after Hawke left his companions at Brentford, and riding towards Hounslow, met the chariot of Mr. Christie, the auctioneer in Pall Mall, within two hundred yards of that town, and ordered the driver to stop. He then came to the side of the carriage where Mr. Christie sat, and robbed him and his lady of a considerable sum in money and their watches, with which he rode off with great deliberation and seeming unconcern. Mr. Christie perceiving him to ride very leisurely, determined to pursue and endeavour to take him, but upon hearing this resolution, his lady, who had been excessively intimidated by the villain's threats, fainted away, and this circumstance induced the gentleman to put quietly up with his loss.

Mr. Fox, oilman, in Fleet-Street, was robbed of his money; and when the above men were before Sir John Fielding, Mr. Fox's servant swore to their robberies.

On the 27th. of July, Hawke and Field stopped Mr. Croucher of about fourteen pounds in cash and a gold watch, the gold watch was found in Hawke's house, on Barnes Common.

On the 31st. of July last, as Mr. Gill was travelling over Wimbledon common, he was robbed; and soon after, within view of Vauxhall Turnpike, his coach was again stopped by Field, while Milford and Hawke waited at a little distance. Field coming up to the side of the coach, pointed his pistol, and demanded his money. Mr. Gill said his cash had been just taken from him, but would give them a draft

a draft on the cashiers of the bank for 14l. 14s. which Field having read, returned it, and then demanded his watch. Mr. Gill, thinking to detain him till somebody should come up, entered into discourse with him, which Field perceiving, swore he would fire, unless he immediately complied; upon which Mr. Gill gave it him, and Field joining his companions, they rode off together.

A short time after the above, the carriage of Mrs. Howard was stopped by three men, who robbed the lady of a valuable gold watch, which was afterwards found in Hawke's house, on Barnes Common, where another gold watch was found belonging to Mrs. Ferguson, who was robbed the same evening.

On the 2nd. of August last, Mr. Mount and his son, being in their carriage near Kensington turnpike were met by three highwaymen, who robbed them of their money and their watches; but not content with the booty they had got, and imagining the gentlemen had still some valuable effects concealed, they followed the carriage, and stopped it a second time and searching them, took from one of them a pair of gold studs, which, on dividing the prize, became Field's, who made a present of them to his wife. The next day these three heroes of the road were apprehended by a party of Sir John Fielding's men, who conveyed them to the office in Bow-street from whence immediate notice was dispatched to the several persons who had lodged informations against them, to attend their examination, which was appointed for the next day.



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In the mean time, Field's wife was secured, and when she was brought to Bow-Street, with the rest of the prisoners, one of the gold studs taken from young Mr. Mount, and afterwards found in her possession, was produced and sworn to. Mrs. Field, with a view to prevent the fact being proved upon her husband, declared that she received the studs from a relation. If her conduct was generous, his was still more so: for he instantly said, that he would confess where many valuable effects had been deposited on condition that his wife might be discharged. This proposal was readily accepted, and the justices ordered about fourteen pounds, which had been found in her possession, to be immediately returned. Hawke was recommitted to Tothill Fields Bridewell, and the other two to New Prison, in order for further examination, the following Wednesday, but before the arrival of that period Milsom and Field, by means of saws and other implements, freed themselves from their irons, and very nearly effected an escape, when their design was discovered by the keepers, and happily frustrated. Mrs. Field was again apprehended, and charged on suspicion of having conveyed the saws to the prisoners, and they were once more put to the bar of the office in Bow-Street, when she candidly acknowledged the fact, alledging that, in a matter on which her husband's life depended, if her conduct was not justifiable, it was at least excusable.

The wives of Field and Milsom, it seems, were sisters, and as they were in their passage in a coach to New-Prison, Mrs. Field unlaced her stays, and under them concealed the tools, which she afterwards gave her husband.

At

At their examination—Keeble, esq; who had formerly kept Mrs. Field, appeared on her behalf, and offered to be bound for her appearance at the Old Bailey, provided she would refrain from visiting her husband; but this condition she begged leave to refuse accepting, for, said she, he is my husband. Mr. Keeble generously gave up his proposed condition, and, together with her father-in-law, became bound for her appearance.

Milsom pleaded with great earnestness for his wife's discharge, and wept much at the thought of her being considered as a felon; he endeavoured to exculpate her by assuring the bench that Mrs. Field brought the tools into the Prison by the express command of her husband; and said that as to his own case, he did not much mind it, but begged some compassion might be shown towards an innocent woman. Mr. Lucas, who had been robbed by Hawke and Milsom near Uxbridge, appeared against them; and Mrs. Kidson, Landlady of the Black Horse at Fullmur, deposed that, to the best of her knowledge, they called and drank at her house on the night Mr. Lucas was robbed, in company with another man, who was supposed, and afterwards appeared to be Field. Elizabeth Webb said, the men were at her house, on Iver Heath, on the night of Mr. Lucas's robbery. Mr. Gill, Mr. Stuart, Mrs. Howard, Mr. Christie, Mrs. Ferguson, the two Mr. Mounts, Mrs. Webb, Mrs. Kidson, Mr. Fox, his servants, and many others were bound over, to prosecute, and give evidence.

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The method taken, and the manner of apprehending these highwaymen, was as follows: They having sold to Joseph Levi, a Jew, some gold, which appeared to have been watch cases, he carried it to Sir John Fielding's and informed him where the robbers were to be found.

Field and his wife had been married exactly a month on the day that he and his companions were taken; he was recommended to her by his own sister, Milsom's wife, as a man who would make her an extraordinary good husband. The day after her nuptials, she found her husband to be a highwayman, and was obliged, from the tenderness she bore towards him, to screen his base practices, and endeavor to persuade him into some more reputable way of obtaining a livelihood: but all her efforts were in vain; so strongly attached was he to the infamous course he had pursued, that when she assured him, her interest was sufficient to procure him an appointment, that would require but little time and attendance and produce an handsome salary, he declared; that he had long expected, and did not wish to avoid making his exit at the gallows.

About the middle of August last, Hawke delivered himself from Tothil-fields Bridewell by bribing one of the Turnkeys, who went away with him and is not yet taken. While Hawke was in confinement here, he contracted an intimacy with the famous William Cox, and now resolved to put a trick upon him, not unlike some of those that this unhappy youth had put upon others. To this end, about an hour before his escape, he crept softly to  
Cox's







Cox's bed and finding him fast asleep, drew his breeches from under his head, and took six guineas out of his pocket.

A few days after his being at large, he stopped Mr. Byde the Banker, and robbed him of a trifling sum of money, and a silver watch, which he had borrowed of his servant, as he usually left his gold one at home while he travelled.

Soon after the above robbery, he attacked Mr. La-Motte, near Tyburn turnpike, and demanded his property; the gentleman gave him half a guinea, ten shillings in silver, and a silver watch; but this being a booty much inferior to his expectation, he seemed greatly disappointed, and obliged Mr. La-Motte to turn all his pockets inside out, and finding nothing worthy his attention, damned the Postilion, and bid him drive on.

One evening about the middle of August last, the chariot of — Spence, esq: was stopped by three footpads, on Kennington Common, but the coachman whipping his horses pretty smartly, and the animals being very fleet, the villains were left at about two hundred yards distance, when the carriage was stopped by Hawke, who robbed Mr. Spence of three guineas.

He stopped Mr. Barnsly soon after, and took from him about two guineas, and after wishing him a good night, rode off.

In September last, as Mr. Ladbroke was going to Long-ford, Hawke rode up to his carriage near that place, and presenting a pistol to the driver, ordered him to stop: upon which Mr. Ladbroke shifted



shifted 50 guineas from his breeches pocket, and gave Hawke something with which he rode off.

In the same month, he robbed a considerable sum of money, and though conversed with him for the space of minutes, yet he could not on his public swear to the identity of his person.

Towards the latter end of the same month, he robbed Mr. Mackay of some money on his way; and about the same time Mr. Mackay was robbed of about 4l. and though he was positive against him, he did not positively against him.

About six months ago, Hawke met a party of four Quakers, who were going to a meeting on Finchley Common, eased them of their money, and finding a bottle of cold fowl in the coach, he eat and drank heartily, and during his entertainment was very freely with them, and then went home. The next good night, rode after four Quakers, from whom he took about seventy pounds worth of watches.

Hawke stopped a post-chaise upon Finchley Common, in which were Mrs. Leroux and a young lady, he robbed the old lady, but the young lady, excessively intimidated, fainted away. On her recovery, she called him back, and asked what money she had in her pocket, he answered, about 14s.

Last October he stopped the chaise of a gentleman, near Wandsworth, and robbed the gentleman of about four pounds worth of watches.



In the same month he stopped a landau and four, at Kensington gravel pits, and going to the door of the vehicle, saw four ladies of Easy Virtue, with whom he had been long intimately acquainted. He demanded their money, but as they did not seem willing to comply, he told them there was no friendship in business, and repeating his demand with an affected sternness, pointed a pistol at a particular lady for whom he was supposed to have a strong attachment. This circumstance occasioned them to set up a cry, which if not equal in point of harmony, certainly struck the ear as forcibly as the most vociferous quarrel made in the camp of Darius, when it was entered by Alexander the great. In short, Hawke took from them thirteen guineas and some silver, one gold and three metal watches, their rings, watches, ear-rings and other trappings, and rode away highly pleased with the adventure: but though he gave the wink to one of the dulcineas he judged it prudent, in order to prevent the matter being made too public, to visit them the next evening at M——s, gave them a handsome treat, and left them as drunk as heroines.

A few months ago, he stopped Mr. Peasley of Little Chelsea, near Kensington gravel pits, and demanded his money in the usual form; but Mr. Peasley positively refusing to deliver it, and Hawke as peremptorily insisting to have it, their dispute could not be terminated but by arms. Hawke drew his pistol, and Mr. Peasley drew another out of the pocket of his chaise, and fired directly, but the Pistol bursting, took off the thumb and two first fingers

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Soon after his being at large he caused a report  
 to be circulated that he was in France, in the most  
 indigent circumstances: And perhaps it was in a  
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fingers of his right hand. handkerchief, and with the nels tied up his wound, and speed to a neighbouring shire. Near Uxbridge, a few men a countryman, who gave an before been robbed of eight men: Hawke bid him move being complied with, they the fellows, whom Hawke of which he gave the count the remainder.

Hawke at a certain time in his finances, by giving a inclinations, thought it need on the road. Accordingly was the misfortune of a poor man, having a little cart loaded with goods, to be the first object of his attack. He knew that these people had no care for their own about them, especially in the market, yet often carried their goods in town for the count. He had a familiar conversation with him, saying he, how goes the world? enough, master, replies the man, the livelihood as times go. But you are never without money, answers the Higler, very few of my own; but I am ready to lay out for other people. says Hawke, you have H



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as, that the French were a set of such poor wretches, that there was not the least profiting a harvest from a soil in which there was but stinking weeds and prickly thistles, gleanings; so that if he had not left the country he did, he must inevitably have starved for want of business. So he thought it better to run the risk of being hanged in his own country than to live for want among slaves and beggars. He was once passing by a grove of trees, at a considerable distance from a gentleman's house, he saw a lady walking with a book in her hand. He was much imagining by her genteel appearance that she would prove a valuable prize, dismounting, he rode to the gate, and went up to her, and soon told her of his business. But upon a nearer view of the fair object, he took such a fancy to her, that he told her she might save her money on congratulating him a certain favour. But this she absolutely refused, declaring she would not part with all she had in the world than her virtue. Upon which he nobly replied, If that be your resolution, madam, which I think is something worthy, your virtue shall protect your modesty. He took his leave in a very complaisant manner. This story he told (as I have no doubt of its truth) it redounds more to his credit than any other that has or can be said of him. Another time, as he was passing over a common in the pursuit of the business of his profession, he saw a young man walking in a very melancholy manner. Being curious to know the grounds of his

his apparent uneasiness, he stops his horse in order to have some talk with him; and finding it proceeded from the want of a small sum of money to pay a debt, which if he could not discharge, would be the means of preventing his marrying a young woman to whom he was contracted. Hawke enquired where he might send to him, and the very next day sent him the sum with a considerable overplus.

Another time he met a person whose appearance promised a good booty; but upon finding he was a strolling player, and that he was such more by necessity than inclination, being brought up to no profession, and had only a few shillings in his pocket, he gave him a guinea, and damn'd him for a fool for taking up with such a beggarly employment, when he might ride on as good a horse as himself did, had he any heart in his belly, and so rode on, in search of something more valuable.

Some time elapsed before any cause appeared to believe that he was committing depredations on the Highway; but at length, one information being lodged in the office at Bow-street, others quickly poured in after it, and the description of the offender perfectly corresponding with the person of Hawke, who having separated himself from his former associates, and living in a very recluse manner, was the better able to elude the search of his pursuers.

Mr. Smith, governor of Tothill-fields Bridewell, hearing that Hawke's wife had been seen at Uxbridge, immediately set out for that place, where



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was conveyed  
found it below  
Garden; and  
Bond, went to  
ver, whom the  
Hawke's retr  
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Having go  
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in Shoe-lane,  
the attack. S  
of the Court  
which the coa



rent the number of the coach that Mrs. Hawke  
 conveyed in. Upon his return to London, he  
 it belonged to a stable keeper near Hatton-  
 en; and having procured the assistance of Mr.  
 went to the yard, and enquired for the dri-  
 whom they questioned pretty closely respecting  
 se's retreat, and found from the manner of  
 plies, that he fully conceived their intentions.  
 erefore became necessary to entice the man  
 his own neighbourhood, that he might not by  
 stratagem occasion intelligence to be convey'd  
 e object of their search, and by that means  
 ate their whole plan. With this view they  
 iled upon him to accompany them to a public  
 e at Hockley in the Hole; and there they by  
 asion and threatening to exercise their authori-  
 earnt, that Hawke had a lodging at No. 2, in  
 and Crown Court, Shoe-lane. They then  
 tched a messenger for further assistance, and  
 coachman becoming more communicative, in-  
 ed them of several material circumstances re-  
 g to Hawke; particularly giving a description  
 s horse, mentioning several times when he had  
 out upon the animal, which stood in the same  
 with his coach; and saying he believed Hawke  
 at that time at home and in bed.  
 Having got this intelligence, and the persons they  
 or being arrived, they went to the Red Hart  
 oe-lane, where they concerted the plan for  
 attack. Some of them being planted at the end  
 a Court, Bond and Smith went to the house  
 the coachman had directed them to, and ha-  
 ving

ving looked into the lower appartments, heard the  
 latch of the street door go, and found means to  
 conceal themselves on the first floor; Smith was  
 stationed at the foot of the stairs, while Bond fol-  
 lowed a woman into a front room on the second  
 story, where seeing Hawke dozing in bed, he in-  
 stantly sprang forwards, and threw himself on the  
 bed upon him, and although he exerted his whole  
 strength, with great difficulty kept him down, and  
 prevented his catching hold of a horse pistol, which  
 lay by his side. After a hard struggle for a few  
 minutes, Smith came to his assistance, and seeing  
 Hawke's hand within a few inches of another pistol,  
 he snatched it up, and thereby probably saved the  
 life of his companion: For in the struggle, the  
 sheet had twisted round part of Bond's head, by  
 which means, his antagonist seem'd to have got the  
 advantage in the conflict. However, by Smith's  
 assistance he was at length subdued; and as soon as  
 he had breath enough to speak, seeing his wife,  
 cried out, *Damn you, madam, where was you all this  
 time.* But the poor woman was so affected with her  
 husband's fate, that she could only answer him with  
 sighs and tears. He would not give up the contest  
 tho' very unequal, so long as he had any strength to  
 maintain it, but that failing him, he was secured.  
 Which being done, he declared that Smith and  
 Bond might think themselves very happy in having  
 escaped his vengeance; for if they had not pro-  
 ceeded with that courage and prudence they did,  
 he should have blown them to atoms. But being  
 put into a coach, and the violence of his passion  
 being



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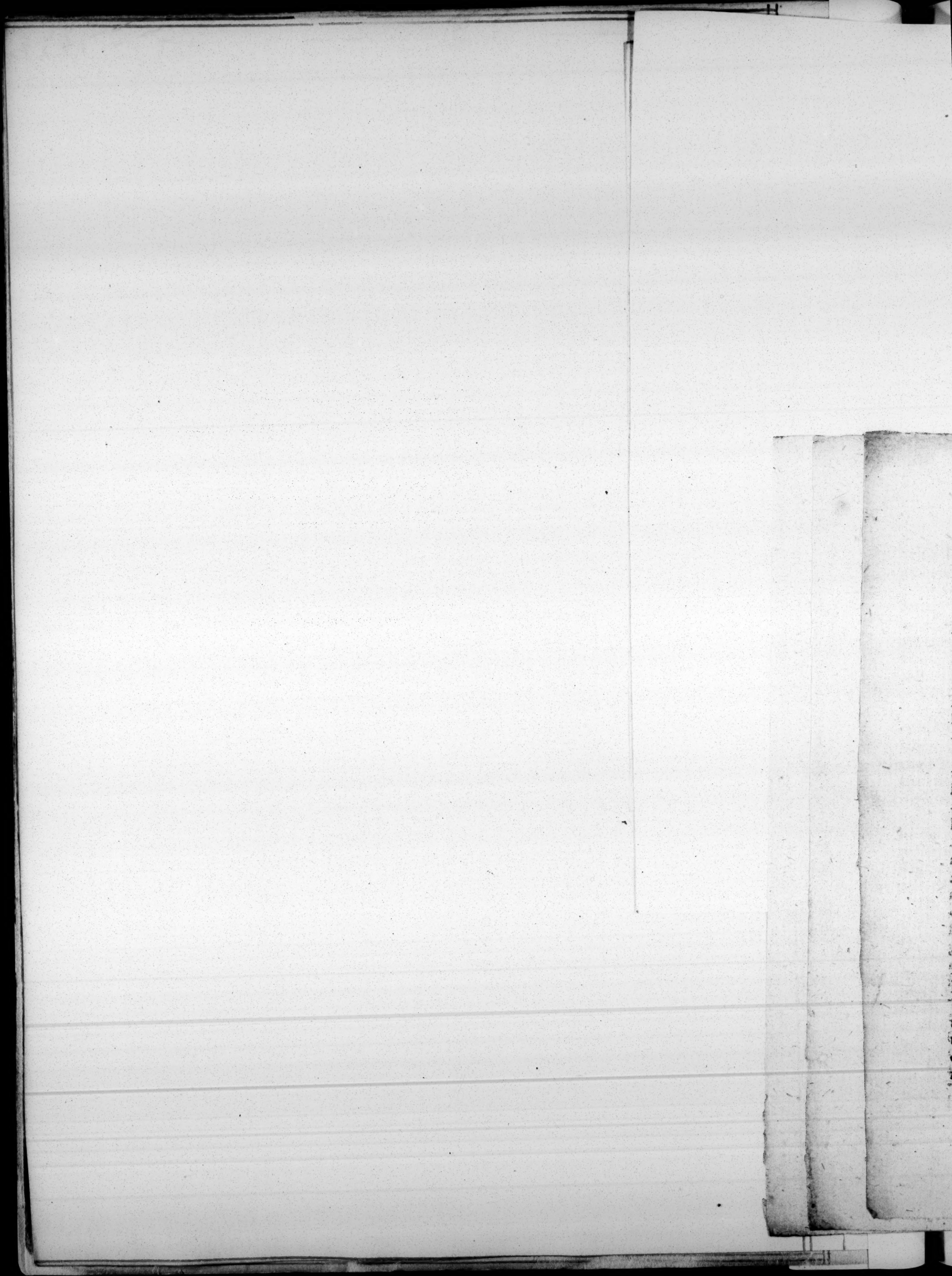
being somewhat abated, he said he was glad no mischief had happened.

He was publickly examined, at the office in Bow-Street, on Wednesday April, the 19th. when several of the persons mentioned in the preceding pages appeared against him, and were bound over to prosecute and give evidence. To give an account of the several charges exhibited against him would be little more than what has been already said; we shall therefore confine ourselves to the circumstances of Hawke's attack upon Mr. Hart and Captain Cunningham, in the exact order as they were recited by the first mentioned gentleman. Captain Cunningham, having received orders to join his regiment in Ireland, set out for that purpose on the 15th. of April, but Mr. Hart gave his evidence in so very explicit a manner, and adduced proofs so positively against the prisoner, that no corroborating or circumstantial evidence was necessary in support of his depositions.

On March 28th. last, towards the evening, Mr. Hart and Capt. Cunningham took a hackney coach, in order to go to Fulham; after passing through Knightsbridge, their conversation turned upon the danger of travelling, when the Captain recollected that he was unarmed, and said, that from the time he was able to make use of defensive weapons, he did not remember he ever undertook a journey, how short soever, without being provided with the necessary means of security. He had scarce uttered these words, when Hawke was heard to cry aloud to the coachman, *Damn your eyes, stop, or I'll*  
blow

*blow your brains out!* Then coming up to the coach window, thrust a pistol against Mr. Hart's breast, and demanded his money. Mr. Hart gave him one shilling and sixpence, and some halfpence, the sight of which so enraged him, that he cried out, in a violent passion, *Damn you, d'ye think I'll accept of halfpence?* During this contest, the captain was endeavouring to conceal his pocket book, which Hawke perceiving, instantly pointed his pistol at him, and swore he would lodge a brace of balls in his head, if he did not that moment deliver. But this intrepid son of Mars, and at the same time not a little inspired with the spirit of Bacchus, with more courage than prudence, bid him *fire away and be damn'd;* and the word was no sooner given than obeyed; and though the pistol seemed aimed directly at the captain, the ball passed close to Mr. Hart's face, grazed the captain's shoulder, and slightly wounded his arm. Hawke hereupon dismounted, and the gentlemen got out of the coach, and prepared to assault him; upon which Hawke snatched another pistol, which missing fire, his rage was kindled in every feature of his face; he eagerly endeavored to load the pistol he had discharged, which they prevented by pelting him with stones, and the Captain beat him with a small stick. Mr. Hart's passion and resolution of securing the villain at length subsided; but the captain's fury was not so soon appeased, for having done all he could to annoy the thief, he vented his rage on his horse, which he beat violently with his switch stick. Mean while Hawke searched the coach, but finding nothing, was preparing to recover his horse,  
and





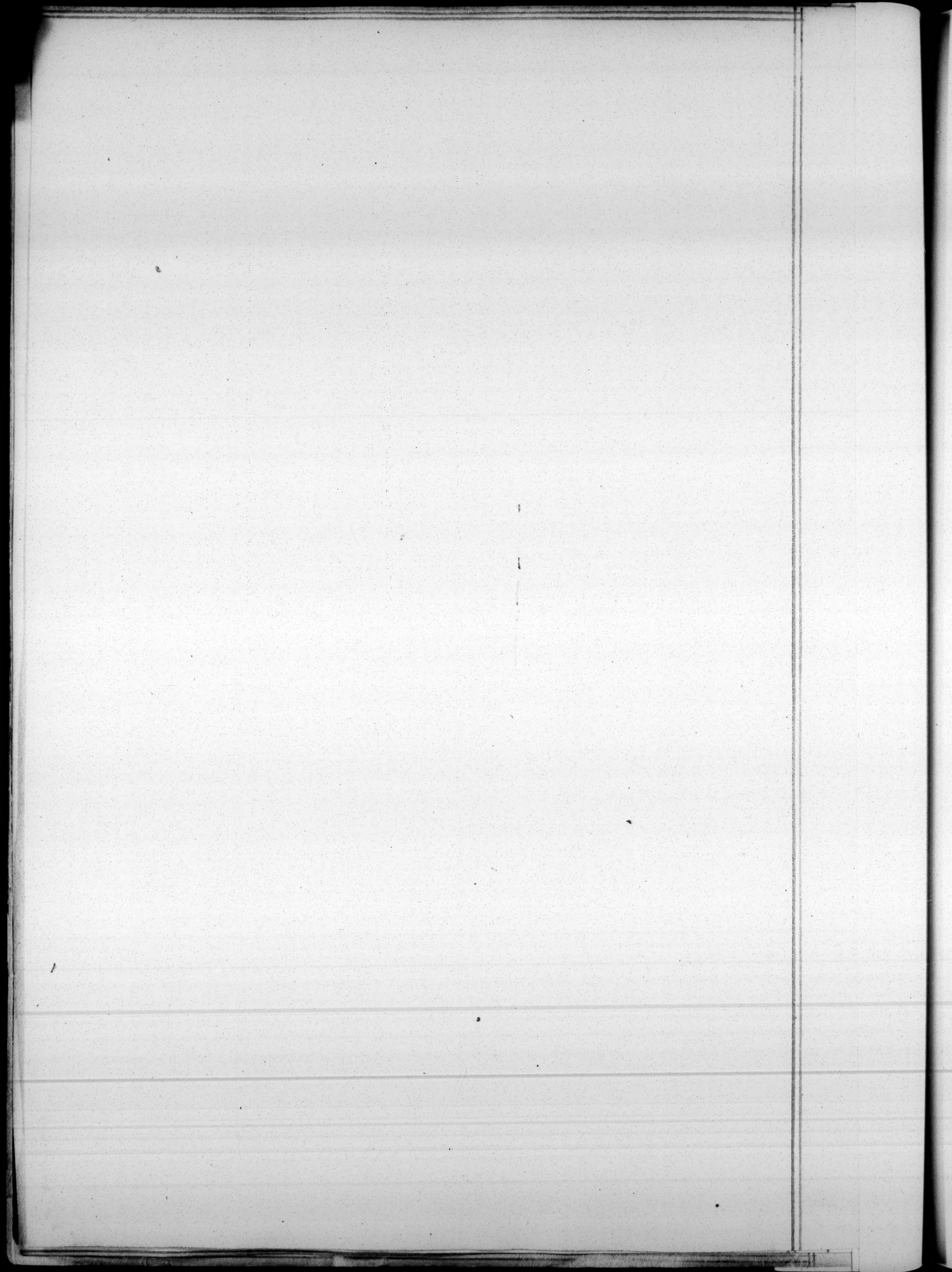


and seeing Mr. Hart standing at about six yards distance, presented a pistol at him, and threatened to fire if he stirred an inch. Upon which the coachman cried, I hope, Sir, you won't shoot my horses. No, replied Hawke, let's look at your number; aye, aye, you are a good honest fellow; I shall know you again. The Captain then joined Mr. Hart, and the villain mounted and rode off.

The driver of the coach in which Mr. Hart was robbed would not swear to the prisoner: but we are inclinable to suppose he might very safely have done it without any wound to his conscience.

The course of public justice is very frequently stopped for want of sufficient evidence, which is often in the power of coachmen, postillions, &c. to give: but an instance has been very seldom met with of these gentry proving the identity of a prisoner; for when called upon as witnesses, they either wholly deny any knowledge of the accused party, speak evasively, or in such a manner as rather to make in favour of the delinquent than the prosecutor. These people often urge, that were they to become the accusers of free-booters on the highway their lives would be in continual danger; and certainly there is some weight in the argument. It is however, to be lamented that those, who besides being less interested, have other circumstances to afford an opportunity of making particular observations, should be under the disagreeable predicament of being unjust from necessity, when, probably, they might wish to be the contrary from principle.







Let us now attend him to the Old-Bailey, where he was arraigned and indicted May 18th. for stopping Thomas Croucher; on the King's highway, and robbing him of a metal watch, value 20s.

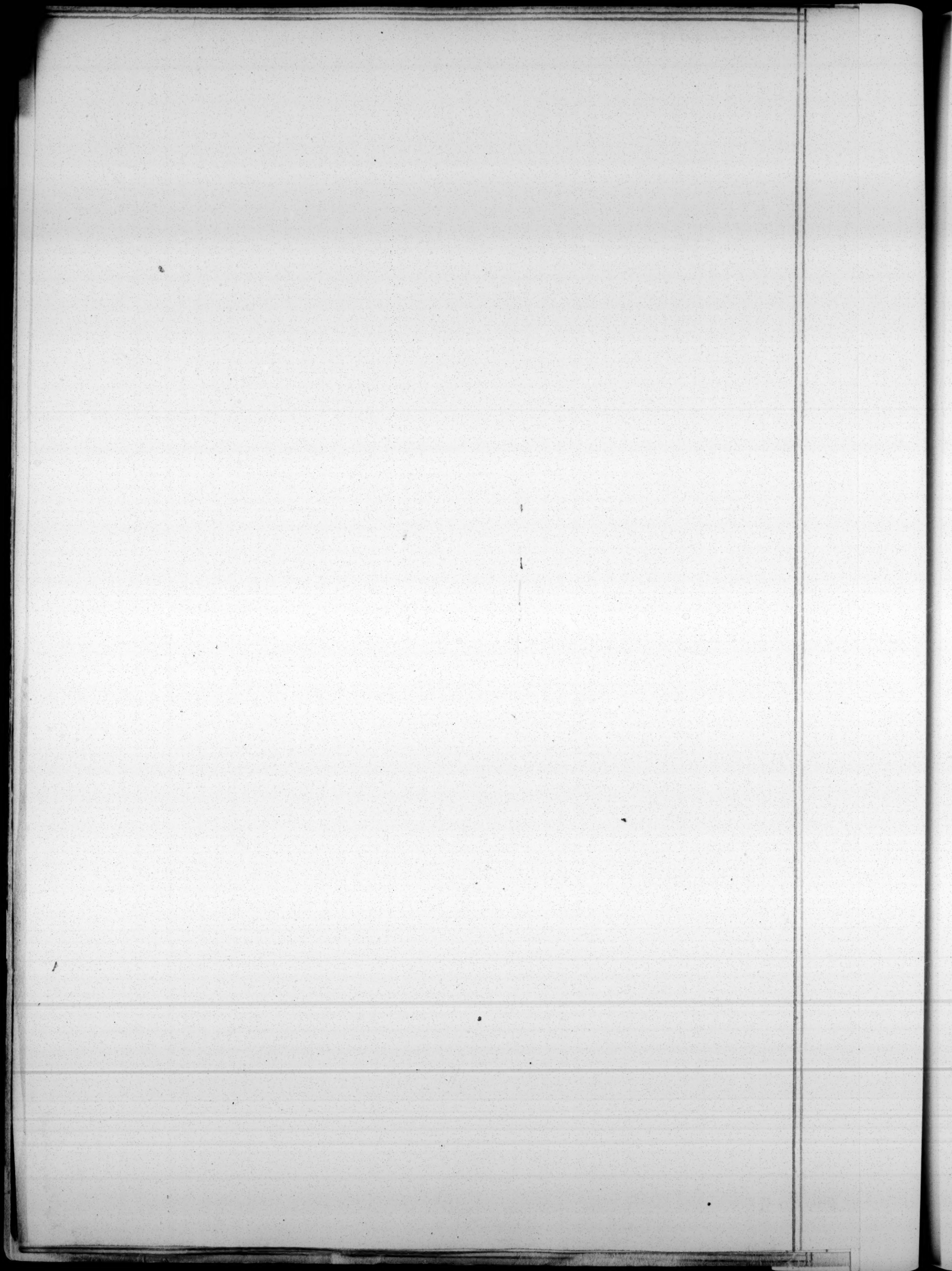
The trial lasted but a short time, and the prisoner in his defence only said, that he would not give the honourable court any trouble; and being still urged to proceed to his defence, he declined it, upon which the Recorder set forth the several circumstances contained in the charge, and left it to the jury to determine upon the whole; who, upon a short consultation, brought in their verdict, *not guilty*.

He was a second time indicted for robbing Mr. Charles Hart, of one shilling, one six pence, and two halfpence. He seemed greatly to fear the consequence of the last prosecutor's charge, and endeavoured to defer the trial, alledging, that his principal witness was not in court. The Recorder asked, if application had been made to the witness he alluded to? and Hawke said, that his wife had gone in search of him the preceding day, but was not able to find him. He was then informed, that if he would give the man's name and a direction to his house, a messenger should be dispatched for him. To this, after some hesitation, he replied, that the man's name was Smith, that he lived in a street near St. Giles's church, and followed the business of a Blacksmith. The prisoner was ordered to be taken from the bar, and one of the attendants at the sessions house sent after Smith, but he returned in about three hours, and informed the court, that no such person was to be found. Therefore Hawke was a-

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gain







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gain brought up, and his per-  
Hart, who gave a circumstantial  
bery, corresponding in every  
narrative of the prisoner's exam-  
Bench of Justices in Bow-street  
attempt to controvert a single  
cutor's evidence, which was given  
exceedingly clear, sufficient  
that the Jury could not, consistent  
their office, do otherwise than  
dict, *Guilty* DEATH.

## HAWKE'S DEFENCE

I am innocent of this affair:  
tirely to the mercy of this honour-  
been guilty of affairs of the kind  
of this. I am a jeweller by trade  
three years old: I have a wife and  
dren.

He did not attempt to invalidate  
prosecutor's evidence; and the  
it up, very pathetically expatiating  
ness of his crimes, and that as he  
justice of his country, the laws re-  
tion which that alone could give  
horted him to make a due use  
was allowed him to prepare for

The Judge's affecting admonition  
make a very great impression on  
he expressed in his dejected countenance  
appeared all the traces of grief,



person sworn to by Mr. tantial account of the robbery particular with our examination before the street. Hawke did not single article of the prosecution was given in a manner sufficient and circumstantial, consistent with the duties of than bring in their ver-

# DEFENCE.

affair: I leave myself on- s honorable court. I have the kind, but am innocent er by trade: I am twenty- a wife and two small chil-

o invalidate any part of the and the Judge, in summing expatiated on the heinous- that as he forfeited life to the e laws required that repara- ould give, and therefore ex- due use of that time which pare for his eternal state. ng admonitions seemed to ession on the prisoner, which eted countenance, in which of grief, terror, and repen- tance

tance that visibly affected him at that moment. On hearing the foreman of the jury pronounce his fate, his soul seemed struck with horror; and while the effusions of his grief burst from his eyes, in a low tremulous voice which manifested a consciousness of his sad and forlorn condition, he endeavoured, in broken language, to move the compassion of the court; in which tho' he could not succeed, yet all who heard him, seem'd to feel the agonies of his mind in their own breasts, and to sympathize in his sufferings, at the same time that they allowed the justice of the punishment to which he was doomed.



## *HAWKE's Behaviour in Newgate; while under Sentence of Death.*

HAVING given an account of the most remarkable highway robberies committed by our hero, we shall now proceed to mention some matters respecting his conduct since his having received sentence.

He is frequently visited in the press-yard by his wife, to whom he behaves with great tenderness; and he often, with great earnestness, cautions her against continuing any of those dangerous connections to which he had unhappily introduced her. Mrs. Hawke's conduct is not less remarkable than her husband's is; for if any judgement may be formed from the general tenor of her behaviour, she feels as sensibly for his deplorable situation as if she herself were reduced to so sad a conjuncture.



In a visit which some gentlemen made to the Press-yard, he told them that he had betrayed him for the lucre of money, and had received many ten guineas from him. He said he could not expect gratitude from such persons in his way of life? He said he wished, however, he could do him under his present unhappy situation, tho' he himself would not hurt his fellow prisoners would, with such base practices, whenever he met persons who are guilty of the same. He said he hurt the persons of those he met, and indeed of a very compassionate person, who pitied the miserable condition of the prisoners who were under such circumstances, and often relieved their wants.

When he is in the Press-yard, he is in conversation with his fellow prisoners, and becomes a party in their intrigues. He has been frequently heard to reprove them for their way to loose conversation, and to put a check upon their immodest offers. — And here let me say, that a man who can feel for the distress of his fellow prisoners, they are not greater than his own, and is not only destitute of some principles, but if the seeds of virtue were sown in his disposition, the rank weeds of vice would be there, and multiplied abundantly, and at length, destroy the noble plant.



me gentlemen paid him in the  
 hem that the man who had be-  
 cre of ten guineas, had recei-  
 s from him; but who, said he,  
 from such mercenary wretches  
 of life? But he freely forgave  
 ver, he would not come to see  
 at unhappy circumstances; for  
 not hurt him, yet he was sure  
 ould, who never fail to punish  
 whenever they meet with the  
 ty of them. He said he never  
 those he robbed, and seemed  
 mpassionate temper, and really  
 condition of those his fellow  
 under sentence of death, and  
 wants.

Pres-yard, he sometimes joins  
 his fellow prisoners, but never  
 their indecent mirth; he has  
 d to reprimand them for giving  
 sation, and indeed, never fails  
 their immorality when an oc-  
 l here let us observe that the  
 r the distresses of another when  
 than his own, cannot be whol-  
 principles allied to goodness:—  
 virtue were thinly scattered in  
 rank weeds of vice flourished  
 d abundantly, till they encum-  
 destroyed the growth of the

Several

[ 29 ]

Several gentlemen whom Hawke had robbed,  
 went to visit him in Newgate, with a view to reco-  
 ver effects they had lost, which they valued at a  
 higher rate than they were really worth. To such  
 kind of questions he gave very ready answers, tho'  
 not much to the satisfaction of the enquirers, as  
 their properties had been distributed thro' such a  
 variety of channels that it was next to impossible to  
 trace them.

In October last, Hawke robbed a gentleman of  
 a family watch, with a coat of arms finely engraved,  
 and after his condemnation, a gentleman went to  
 him in Newgate and described the aforesaid watch  
 to him, and telling him, if it was pawn'd or sold  
 he should be glad to have it again. Hawke recol-  
 lected the day that he committed the robbery, and  
 told the gentleman it was neither pawn'd or sold,  
 but was left at a friend's house about twenty-three  
 miles from London. The gentleman went away  
 very well satisfied, and in a few days Hawke sent  
 the watch to him, and generously refused accepting  
 any reward or gratuity whatsoever.

Notwithstanding the most perfect resignation and  
 true penitence are marked in every feature of his  
 face, and evident from his whole deportment, there  
 is a chearful alertness in him that seems to imply a  
 conscious reformation in principle.

In short, his whole conduct, since his conviction,  
 has hitherto been unexceptionably proper and suit-  
 able to his unhappy circumstances; and as there is  
 no reason to doubt but his present penitential dispo-

sition



fition will continue to his ground to hope he will meet a great tribunal above, which encouraged to expect.

*On the Day of*

**E**ARLY in the morning they employ'd themselves in acts of devotion. Exactly they were brought from the cell order to take off their iron. His frame was dissolving, w not with unconcern, with

While the irons were taken off Hawke's accosted him w which the other replied to enquired after an old acqu heard was indisposed.

From Newgate to the place he behaved with much calm prayed and wept incessantly within 200 yards of Oxford looked round him, as if he had ed the journey at an end.

When they arrived at the about twenty minutes were then they were tied up. they were turned off, Hay with great violence; and a



to his latest breath, there is  
will meet with that mercy at the  
ve, which true penitents are en-  
t.

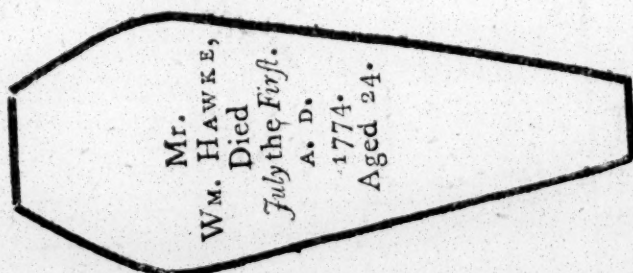
### Day of Execution.

the morning the prisoners em-  
elves in singing psalms, and other  
Exactly at seven o'Clock they  
n the cells into the Prefs-yard, in  
their irons—Jones trembled as if  
olving, while Hawke appeared, if  
n, with a fortitude very unusual.  
were tiking off, an acquaintance  
ed him with a "How d'ye Billy?"  
plied to with chearfulness, and  
old acquaintance, whom he had  
fed.

to the place of execution, Hawke  
th calm resignation, while Jones  
incessantly. When they came  
f Oxford-street turn-pike, Hawke  
as if he rather wished than fear-  
an end.  
red at the place of execution, a-  
es were spent in devotion, and  
d up. About a minute before  
ff, Hawke kicked off his shoes  
; and at the instant the cart mo-  
ved

ved, he drew up his knees to his breast, so as to  
fall with a violent jerk, which almost instantly de-  
prived him of life.

There was a hearse in waiting, with a handsome  
black coffin with yellow nails, on which was the  
following inscription :

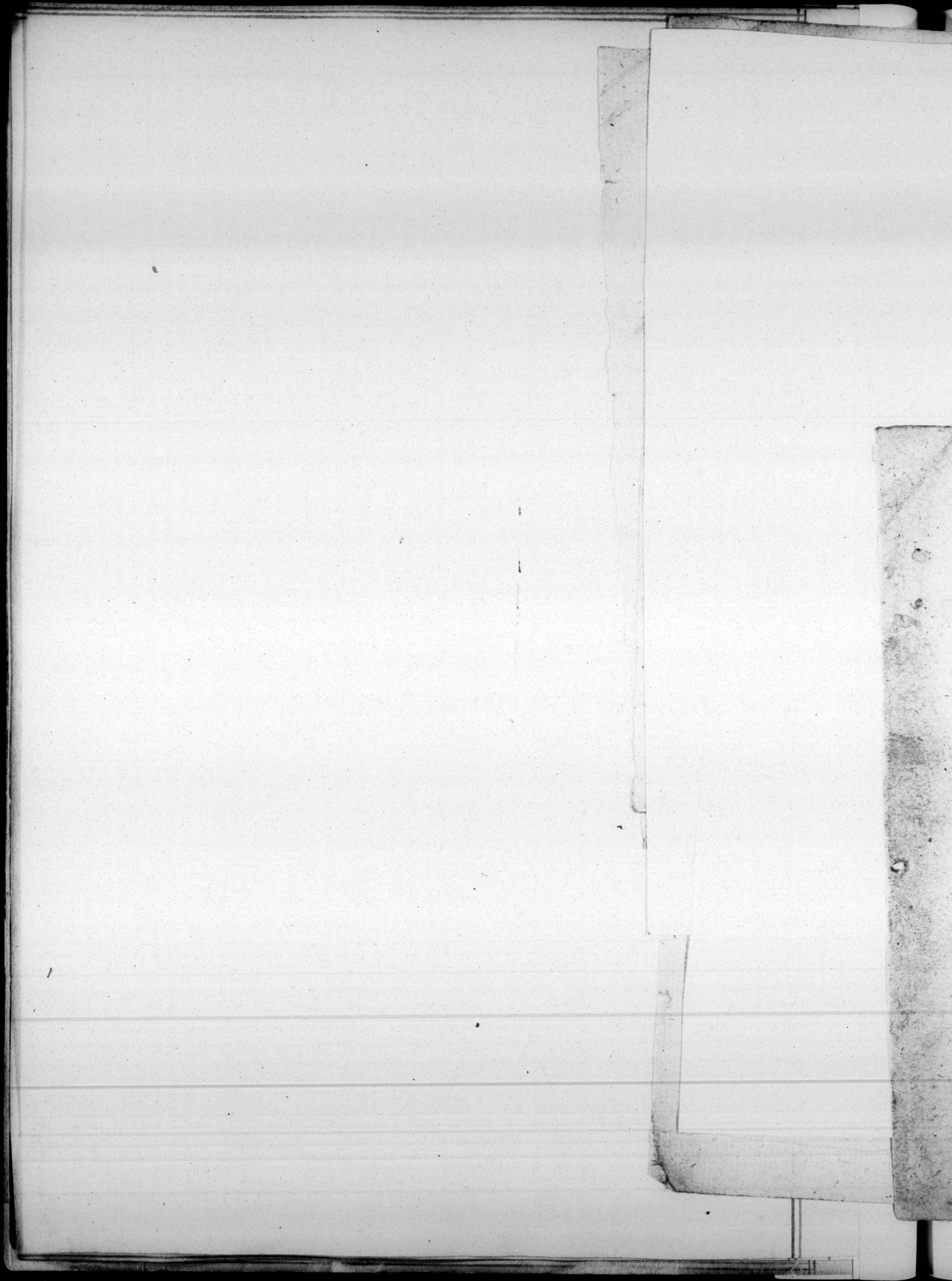


Hawke has desir'd that a tomb-stone may be  
erected to his memory, with the subsequent epitaph  
from a stone in Stepney Church-yard.

" *Adieu, vain World ! I've had enough of thee,  
And now am careless what thou says of me ;  
Thy smiles I court not, nor thy frowns I fear,  
My sorrows they are ended, my head lies quiet here.*"

F I N I S.







5251

There was a note in writing with London  
to a man with yellow hair on which was the  
signature of the man.



5 JA 53

from a place in the Church year.

...and I have been thinking of you  
...and I have been thinking of you  
...and I have been thinking of you  
...and I have been thinking of you

21818